

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY (v.1)

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HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

*November 3, 2004
Portland, Oregon*

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This is only a summary of issues and actions in this meeting. It may not represent the fullness of ideas discussed or opinions given, and should not be used as a substitute for actual public involvement or public comment on any particular topic unless specifically identified as such.

Welcome and Introductions

Amber Waldref, committee chair, led the meeting and provided introductions. The June meeting summary was adopted.

Overview of TPA Quarterly Meeting Topics

The Tri Party Agreement (TPA) Quarterly Public Involvement meeting preceded this meeting. Dennis Faulk, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Nolan Curtis, WA Department of Ecology, summarized three key issues/topics from the TPA meeting indicating the need for further discussion in the Public Involvement Committee (PIC):

- (1) Diversity outreach plan,
- (2) Transparency, and
- (3) Evaluation tools and methods.

Nolan asked for feedback from the Public Involvement Committee, and asked if there are things agencies can take on.

Public Involvement Issues Workshop

The committee discussed the three topics introduced by Nolan Curtis and Dennis Faulk in an effort to identify the TPA agency's approach and needs from the committee, as well as potential work scope for the committee.

(1) Diversity outreach plan

The Committee discussed the challenge of including and promoting diversity in the HAB process. With regards to the upcoming Yakima meeting in April, the idea was presented to promote HAB outreach to the Hispanic community in the Yakima area.

- Several Committee members emphasized the need to take advantage of media resources available in the Yakima area, including local newspapers and radio stations, as well as identifying, approaching, and involving educational institutions (community colleges, Heritage College, etc) and Hispanic community centers and community leaders.
- Although the importance of providing outreach to the Hispanic community was recognized, some Committee members voiced concern that efforts to promote diversity in the HAB process should not be limited to the Hispanic community, and should also target other community groups, particularly tribal governments. Susan Leckband voiced some concern about potential issues with approaching tribal governments and other groups for diversity outreach in Yakima.
- It was suggested that since participation in the HAB process is voluntary, outreach efforts ought to focus on providing opportunity and opening up the process, making it more accessible for community groups. Amber Waldref floated the idea of organizing and putting on a welcoming activity in order to provide information to the community. She suggested that such an event would be lead by the organizations involved in the HAB, in collaboration with planned agency round table meetings. Nolan Curtis, Ecology, cautioned that agencies are approaching outreach efforts with a focus on building and establishing relationships, which go beyond just event planning.
- Nancy Murray brought up questions about how to tailor/structure the Yakima meeting: Should there be multiple meetings? Which institutions should be involved? What are the available meeting spaces (convention center, community college, hotel)?
- Norma Jean asked whether agencies were going to be cultivating community outreach in Yakima leading up to the meeting in April. Agency representatives indicated that community outreach efforts would be conducted before the meeting.

Brainstorming Ideas for Yakima Meeting:

The Committee spent some time discussing and brainstorming ideas for the Yakima meeting.

- Some Committee members suggested doing presentations in community college classrooms. Furthermore, it was stated that such presentations should try and connect with already established classroom topics.
- Leon Swenson added that it might be useful and important to develop relationships with staff at community colleges and community organizations in order to foster long-term relationships. Additionally, Nolan Curtis raised the point that HAB will not be successful at creating interest and building relationships if it simply comes to town for a meeting and event, and then leaves without making and maintaining relationships in the Yakima area. As a first step towards making connections and fostering relationships, it was suggested that HAB and agency members could attend community meetings to develop a better understanding of community issues, and arrange one-on-one meetings with community leaders.
- Susan Leckband said that any outreach ideas/plans should be brought to the full HAB for approval.
- Shelley Cimon cautioned that outreach with schools can have issues (type of presentation and information, access to students, willing teachers, etc), and suggested that community centers may provide a better option for outreach efforts. Greg de Bruler reinforced Shelley's warning, based on his own efforts to bring presentations to schools.
- Several committee members seemed to agree that there is a need to "adopt"/take ownership about keeping dialogue with communities going to maintain relationships.
- Amber Waldref moved to create a sub-group in charge of planning and organizing event for Yakima meeting. Volunteers for the sub-group included: Norma Jean Germond, Susan Leckband, Leon Swenson, and Amber Waldref.

(2) Transparency

- Greg de Bruler provided his observations about a discussion about "openness" from a past meeting in relation to issue of transparency. He suggested that there is currently little transparency about decision-making, and that agencies currently operate under the mantra of "decide, announce, and defend." Furthermore, he indicated the need to have a connection within the agencies between "where we've been" and the current decision-making process, especially the need to involve and educate new contractors and managers about past work and process.

- Barb Wise, Fluor, supported the need to maintain an understanding of the process and past work within agencies, and suggested the HAB's white paper on the canyon disposition initiative (CDI) could be used as a way to check back on whether HAB values and principles were incorporated into the current U Plant Proposed Plan.
- Committee members stated that it is important when looking at documents and promotional materials to ask, "Is it something that people understand?" "Does it incorporate values of past and present agreements and situations?" "Is all the information there, and is the information good?"
- Amber Waldref asked the committee for suggestions to improve transparency in the decision making process. Dennis Faulk, EPA, suggested that agencies need examples of transparency issues in order to improve informational outreach and the decision-making process from their end. Leon Swenson further emphasized the need to use specific examples to evaluate transparency issues. Greg de Bruler stated his desire to schedule a further discussion of transparency for a future HAB meeting with examples for agency managers. It was stated that open and transparent communication involves process, documents, and materials.
- Todd Martin and Greg de Bruler suggested that the Integrated Disposal Facility (IDF) is a good example of the transparency issue, involving a major decision being made, that many think should have been a major topic of discussion with clear information communicated to the public. Greg de Bruler stated that he believes the agencies understand transparency issues, but either decide not to adequately deal with them, or deal with them ineffectively. Dennis Faulk asserted that groups that work closely with agencies often do not read final reports.
- Susan Leckband suggested looking at the CDI Proposed Plan as a way to see if it reflects past values, and could be a good example of the transparency issue. Norma Jean supported Susan's suggestion of using the Canyon Disposition Initiative as an example for transparency discussion, since it deals with the following questions: Does the proposal jibe with past values? Is it technically the right thing to do? Does it communicate the right information about the decision-making process? Barb Wise said that she could have copies made available to the committee if it is decided that this is a good example to use. She also has the white paper on CDI drafted by EnviroIssues, and could make copies available.
- Leon Swenson suggested that there are two fundamental questions: 1) Does the data in the presentation justify the proposed position; 2) Does the decision jibe with past values, and do those values still apply?

(3) Evaluation process and materials

It was decided to move on in the agenda due to time constraints, limiting the discussion of evaluation process and materials.

Board Fact Sheet for Tank Waste Environmental Impact Statement

Leon Swenson summarized action on the Board Advice Summary on Tank Waste Clean-up. The summary attempts to highlight the major themes, providing a reference and short description of various advice pieces within each theme; serving as a roadmap of information on tank waste clean-up. Leon suggested using only the first part of the summary as a public piece and using the more detailed portion as an internal HAB document. The Committee liked the composition and information provided by the summary.

- Amber Waldref proposed some edits; Leon Swenson said he wants people to read the summary critically and provide feedback.
- It was decided that December 1, 2004 is the deadline for edits to the summary, and should be sent to Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues. Once she has collected edits to the summary, she will forward them to Leon Swenson in time for the Public Involvement call on December 16, and a final draft with committee consensus will be ready for the January HAB meeting. There was discussion of which parts of the summary should be made available to the Board (2nd piece for internal circulation), and on the website (public piece with links to the appropriate advices).

Committee Business

- Sub-group on relationship building and community outreach for the Yakima meeting: Norma Jean Germond, Amber Waldref, Leon Swenson, and Susan Leckband.
- Susan Leckband and Nancy Murray will talk to the River and Plateau Committee about the Canyon Disposition Initiative Proposed Plan.
- Leon Swenson stated that he would like cartoons or other graphics for the Tank Waste advice summary, to increase accessibility.
- November call cancelled, but the Yakima planning sub-group will have a call during November committee week.

Handouts

- Pre-Decisional Draft of TPA “DIVERSITY OUTREACH for Public Involvement”
- Summary – Hanford Advisory Board’s Advice on Hanford Tank Waste

Attendees

HAB Members and Alternates:

Charlie Weems	Susan Hughs	Susan Leckband
Greg de Bruler	Nancy Murray	Bob Parks
Shelley Cimon	Gary Petersen	Todd Martin
Amber Waldref	Norma Jean Germond	Leon Swenson

Others:

Erik Olds, <i>DOE – ORP</i>	Nolan Curtis, <i>Ecology</i>	Sharon Braswell, <i>Nuvotec - ORP</i>
Joe Voice, <i>DOE – RL</i>	Dennis Faulk, <i>EPA</i>	Penny Mabie, <i>EnviroIssues</i>
	Tim Hill, <i>Ecology</i>	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, <i>EnviroIssues</i>
	Ginger Wireman, <i>Ecology</i>	Barb Wise, <i>Fluor</i>